

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

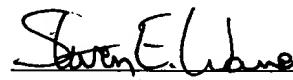
Claims 1, 3-15 and 56-96 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 56, 65, 71, 76 and 81-95 are independent. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 4, 84, 88 and 89 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention, while claim 96 has been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these changes and this claim can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-15 were previously allowed in this application. Applicants submit that claim 1 reads on Figures 7-29 and is generic to all species. Applicants further submit that the changes to claim 1 clarify the invention, and that claim 1 should remain allowable. In addition, Applicant submits that claims 56-95 should be allowable for defining other features of the invention and that new claim 96 further patentably defines features of the projection exposure apparatus, as recited in independent claim 1.

Applicants submit, therefore, that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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